

Contact: Ronda Sloan
(502) 564-6098
(502) 330-1804 - cell

News Release

**KENTUCKY ACCESS RECEIVES UNQUALIFIED ANNUAL AUDIT
3,800 Kentuckians currently served by health insurance program**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 6, 2006) – For the sixth consecutive year, Kentucky Access, the state's high-risk health insurance pool, has received an unqualified annual audit from the Auditor of Public Accounts. An "unqualified" audit means that auditors found no "material weaknesses" or instances of noncompliance in the program.

Kentucky Access, operated as a division of the Kentucky Office of Insurance (KOI), offers coverage to about 3,800 Kentuckians who are unable to purchase health insurance in the regular market due to high-cost health conditions.

"Obviously, we are pleased with the auditor's report," said Julie Mix McPeak, KOI executive director. "We are proud of the service we offer to these Kentuckians and take very seriously the charge to be good stewards of this money. This audit serves to recognize the hard work of the Kentucky Access staff."

Kentucky Access is funded by tobacco settlement money, assessments from insurers, grants and premiums paid by members.